

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, following the title, please insert the following:

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a National Stage of International Application PCT/EP2004/004932, filed May 8, 2004. Applicant claims foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a) – (d) of the following foreign applications for patent: German Application No. 103 25 057.3, filed June 2, 2003, and German Application No. 103 27 994.6, filed June 21, 2003, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, please amend the first and second paragraphs, as follows:

The present invention relates to a hood, in particular for clothing items for protective and/or military purposes, such as NBC protective suits/garments ~~[[or]]~~ and the like~~[[,]] as classified in the preamble of claim 1.~~ The present invention further relates to clothing items, in particular for protective and/or military purposes, such as NBC protective suits ~~[[or]]~~ and the like, which are equipped with such a hood.

~~The present invention further relates to clothing items, in particular for protective and/or military purposes, such as NBC protective suits or the like, as classified in the preamble of claim 17. Finally~~ Further, the present invention also relates to the use of an elastic hem for closing out the transition between a portion of a clothing item, in particular a hood, on the one hand and a further clothing item or outfit article (equipment article), in particular a respirator, on the other. ~~as classified in the preamble of claim 19.~~

On page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 30, as follows:

This object is achieved as proposed by a hood according to what is disclosed and illustrated herein claim 1 and by a clothing item according to claim 17 the disclosed and illustrated invention, respectively. Further, advantageous refinements and executions form part of the subject matter of ~~subsidiary claims~~ the disclosed and illustrated invention.

On page 4, at line 20, please insert a page break, heading and following paragraph:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A hood, in particular for a clothing item, preferably for protective and/or military purposes, such as an NBC protective suit or the like, according to one embodiment of the present invention includes a circumferential (peripheral) elastic hem constructed and arranged to form a

face opening, the face opening being provided so as to receive a respirator and the hem abutting the respirator in the use state, the structure being characterized in that the side of the hem that faces into the face opening is provided with a multiplicity of circumferential sealing elements which are durably conjoined with the hem and are in the form of elastofibers for closeout abutment of the respirator.

On page 4, at line 21, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Further advantages, properties, aspects and features of the present invention will be apparent from the following description of a preferred operative example depicted in the ~~drawing~~, where drawings.

On page 4, at line 25 please insert a page break and add the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 4, beginning at line 26, please amend the description of the figures, as set forth below:

- Fig. 1 shows a schematic depiction of an inventive clothing item equipped with an inventive hood[;]_.
- Fig. 2 shows a schematic depiction of an inventive hood in the use state[;]_.
- Fig. 3A shows an enlarged depiction of that region of the inventive hood in the use state which is marked in Fig. 2 by broken lines[;]_.
- Fig. 3B shows an enlarged depiction of the region marked in Fig. 3B by broken lines or of the cutout marked accordingly in Fig. 3A[;]_.

Fig. 4A shows a schematic plan view of the hem equipped according to the present invention with sealing elements[[]].

~~Figs. 4B, C show~~

Fig. 4B shows a schematic cross section through a hem according to ~~two embodiments~~ one embodiment which is equipped according to the present invention with sealing elements[[]].

Fig. 4C shows a schematic cross section through a hem according to another embodiment which is equipped according to the present invention with sealing elements.

Fig. 5 shows a side view of the inventive hood in the use state ~~and~~.

Fig. 6 shows an enlarged cross-sectional depiction along the line VI depicted in Fig. 5.

On page 5, at line 15, please insert a page break, and add the following heading and paragraph:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

For the purposes of promoting an understanding of the principles of the invention, reference will now be made to the embodiments illustrated in the drawings and specific language will be used to describe the same. It will nevertheless be understood that no limitation of the scope of the invention is thereby intended, such alterations and further modifications in the illustrated device, and such further applications of the principles of the invention as illustrated therein being contemplated as would normally occur to one skilled in the art to which the invention relates.

On page 12, at line 22, please add the following paragraph:

While the invention has been illustrated and described in detail in the drawings and foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character, it being understood that only the preferred embodiment has been shown and described and that all changes and modifications that come within the spirit of the invention are desired to be protected.

On page 18, in the first line, please amend the heading as follows:

Abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

On page 18, in the Abstract of the Disclosure, at line 15, please delete the reference to (Fig. 6.)